Package 'cBioPortalData'

January 15, 2026

Title Exposes and Makes Available Data from the cBioPortal Web
Resources

Version 2.23.2

Description The cBioPortalData R package accesses study datasets from the
cBio Cancer Genomics Portal. It accesses the data either from
the pre-packaged zip / tar files or from the API interface that was
recently implemented by the cBioPortal Data Team. The package can provide
data in either tabular format or with MultiAssayExperiment object that uses
familiar Bioconductor data representations.

Depends R (>= 4.5.0), AnVIL (>= 1.19.5), MultiAssayExperiment

Imports BiocBaseUtils, BiocFileCache (>= 1.5.3), digest, dplyr,
Seqinfo, GenomicRanges, httr, IRanges, methods, readr,
RaggedExperiment, RTCGAToolbox (>= 2.19.7), S4Vectors,
SummarizedExperiment, stats, tibble, tidyr, TCGAutils (>=
1.9.4), utils

Suggests BiocStyle, jsonlite, knitr, survival, survminer, rmarkdown,
testthat

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VignetteBuilder knitr

URL https://github.com/waldronlab/cBioPortalData

BugReports https://github.com/waldronlab/cBioPortalData/issues

biocViews Software, Infrastructure, ThirdPartyClient

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Collate 'utils.R' 'cBioDataPack.R' 'cBioPortal-class.R' 'cBioPortal.R'
'cBioPortalData-pkg.R' 'cBioPortalData.R' 'cache.R'

git_url https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/cBioPortalData

git_branch devel

Contents

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cBioCache   *Manage cache / download directories for study data*

Description

Managing data downloads is important to save disk space and avoid re-downloading data files. This
can be done via the integrated `BiocFileCache` system.

Usage

```
cBioCache(..., ask = interactive())

setCache(
  directory = tools::R_user_dir("cBioPortalData", "cache"),
  verbose = TRUE,
  ask = interactive()
)

removePackCache(cancer_study_id, dry.run = TRUE)
```

Arguments

`...`	For `cBioCache`, arguments passed to `setCache`
`ask`	logical (default TRUE when interactive session) Confirm the file location of the cache directory
`directory`	The file location where the cache is located. Once set future downloads will go to this folder.
`verbose`	Whether to print descriptive messages
`cancer_study_id`	
	character(1) The studyId from `getStudies`
`dry.run`	logical Whether or not to remove cache files (default TRUE).

Value

cBioCache: The path to the cache location

cBioCache

Get the directory location of the cache. It will prompt the user to create a cache if not already created. A specific directory can be used via `setCache`.

setCache

Specify the directory location of the data cache. By default, it will go to the user directory as given by:

```
tools::R_user_dir("cBioPortalData", "cache")
```

removePackCache

Some files may become corrupt when downloading, this function allows the user to delete the tarball associated with a `cancer_study_id` in the cache. This only works for the `cBioDataPack` function. To remove the entire `cBioPortalData` cache, run `unlink("~/.cache/cBioPortalData")`.

Examples

```
cBioCache()

removePackCache("acc_tcga", dry.run = TRUE)
```

---

cBioDataPack   *Obtain pre-packaged data from cBioPortal and represent as a Multi-*
                                AssayExperiment object

Description

The cBioDataPack function allows the user to download and process cancer study datasets found in MSKCC's cBioPortal. Output datasets use the [MultiAssayExperiment](#) data representation to faciliate analysis and data management operations.

Usage

```
cBioDataPack(
  cancer_study_id,
  use_cache = TRUE,
  names.field = c("Hugo_Symbol", "Entrez_Gene_Id", "Gene"),
  cleanup = TRUE,
  ask = interactive(),
  check_build = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

cancer_study_id

character(1) The study identifier from cBioPortal as seen in the dataset links at `https://www.cbioportal.org/datasets`.

use_cache   logical(1) (default TRUE) create the default cache location and use it to track downloaded data. If data found in the cache, data will not be re-downloaded. A path can also be provided to data cache location.

names.field   character() Possible column names for the column that will used to label ranges for data such as mutations or copy number (defaults: "Hugo_Symbol", "Entrez_Gene_Id", "Gene", and "Composite.Element.REF"). Values are cycled through and eliminated when no data present, or duplicates are found. Values in the corresponding column must be unique in each row.

cleanup   logical(1) whether to delete the untar-red contents from the exdir folder (default TRUE)

ask   logical(1) Whether to prompt the the user before downloading and loading study MultiAssayExperiment that is not currently building based on previous testing. Set to interactive() by default. In a non-interactive session, data download will be attempted; equivalent to ask = FALSE. The argument will also be used when a cache directory needs to be created when using downloadStudy.

check_build   logical(1L) Whether to check the build status of the studyId using an internal dataset. This argument should be set to FALSE if using alternative hostnames, e.g., 'pedcbioportal.kidsfirstdrc.org'

Details

The full list of study identifiers (studyIds) can obtained from getStudies(). Currently, only ~ 72% of datasets can be represented as MultiAssayExperiment data objects from the data tarballs. Refer to getStudies(..., buildReport = TRUE) and its "pack_build" column to see which study identifiers are not building. Users who would like to prioritize particular datasets should open GitHub issues at the URL in the DESCRIPTION file. For a more fine-grained approach to downloading data from the cBioPortal API, refer to the cBioPortalData function.

Value

A [MultiAssayExperiment](#) object

cBio_URL

The cBioDataPack function accesses data from the cBio_URL option. By default, it points to an Amazon S3 bucket location. Previously, it pointed to 'http://download.cbioportal.org'. This recent change (> 2.1.17) should provide faster and more reliable downloads for all users. See the URL using cBioPortalData:::.url_location. This can be changed if there are mirrors that host this data by setting the cBio_URL option with getOption("cBio_URL", "https://some.url.com/") before running the function.

Author(s)

Levi Waldron, Marcel R., Ino dB.

See Also

https://www.cbioportal.org/datasets, [cBioPortalData](#), [removePackCache](#)

Examples

```
cbio <- cBioPortal()

head(getStudies(cbio)[["studyId"]])

mae <- cBioDataPack("acc_tcga")
```

---

cBioPortal   *The R interface to the cBioPortal API Data Service*

Description

This section of the documentation lists the functions that allow users to access the cBioPortal API. The main representation of the API can be obtained from the cBioPortal function. The supporting functions listed here give access to specific parts of the API and allow the user to explore the API with individual calls. Many of the functions here are listed for documentation purposes and are recommended for advanced usage only. Users should only need to use the cBioPortalData main function to obtain data.

Usage

```
cBioPortal(
  hostname = "www.cbioportal.org",
  protocol = "https",
  api. = "/api/v2/api-docs",
  token = character()
)

getStudies(api, buildReport = FALSE)

clinicalData(api, studyId = NA_character_)

molecularProfiles(
  api,
  studyId = NA_character_,
  projection = c("SUMMARY", "ID", "DETAILED", "META")
)

fetchData(
  api,
  studyId,
  molecularProfileIds = NA_character_,
  entrezGeneIds = NULL,
  sampleIds = NULL
)

mutationData(
  api,
  molecularProfileIds = NA_character_,
  entrezGeneIds = NULL,
  sampleIds = NULL
)

molecularData(
  api,
  molecularProfileIds = NA_character_,
  entrezGeneIds = NULL,
  sampleIds = NULL
)

copyNumberData(
  api,
  molecularProfileIds = NA_character_,
  entrezGeneIds = NULL,
  sampleIds = NULL,
  sampleListId = NULL,
 discreteCopyNumberEventType = c("HOMDEL_AND_AMP", "HOMDEL", "AMP", "GAIN", "HETLOSS",
    "DIPLOID", "ALL"),
```

```
  projection = c("SUMMARY", "ID", "DETAILED", "META")
)

searchOps(api, keyword)

samplesInSampleLists(api, sampleListIds = NA_character_)

sampleLists(api, studyId = NA_character_)

allSamples(api, studyId = NA_character_)

getSampleInfo(
  api,
  studyId = NA_character_,
  sampleListIds = NULL,
  projection = c("SUMMARY", "ID", "DETAILED", "META")
)

genePanels(api)

getGenePanel(api, genePanelId = NA_character_)

genePanelMolecular(
  api,
  molecularProfileId = NA_character_,
  sampleListId = NULL,
  sampleIds = NULL
)

getGenePanelMolecular(api, molecularProfileIds = NA_character_, sampleIds)

geneTable(api, pageSize = 1000, pageNumber = 0, ...)

queryGeneTable(
  api,
  by = c("entrezGeneId", "hugoGeneSymbol"),
  genes = NA_character_,
  genePanelId = NA_character_
)

getDataByGenes(
  api,
  studyId = NA_character_,
  genes = NA_character_,
  genePanelId = NA_character_,
  by = c("entrezGeneId", "hugoGeneSymbol"),
  molecularProfileIds = NULL,
  sampleListId = NULL,
```

```
    sampleIds = NULL,
    ...
)
```

Arguments

hostname	character(1) The internet location of the service (default: 'www.cbioportal.org')
protocol	character(1) The internet protocol used to access the hostname (default: 'https')
api.	character(1) The directory location of the API protocol within the hostname (default: '/api/v2/api-docs')
token	character(1) The Authorization Bearer token e.g., "63eba81c-2591-4e15-9d1c-fb6e8e51e35d" or a path to text file.
api	An API object of class cBioPortal from the cBioPortal function
buildReport	logical(1) Indicates whether to append the build information to the getStudies() table (default FALSE)
studyId	character(1) Indicates the "studyId" as taken from getStudies
projection	character(1) (default: "SUMMARY") Specify the projection type for data retrieval for details see API documentation
molecularProfileIds	
	character() A vector of molecular profile IDs
entrezGeneIds	numeric() A vector indicating entrez gene IDs
sampleIds	character() Sample identifiers
sampleListId	character(1) A sample list identifier as obtained from sampleLists()
discreteCopyNumberEventType	
	character(1) The copy number event type to filter on. Must be one of "HOMDEL_AND_AMP" (default), "HOMDEL", "AMP", "GAIN", "HETLOSS", "DIPLOID", or "ALL"
keyword	character(1) Keyword or pattern for searching through available operations
sampleListIds	character() A vector of 'sampleListId' as obtained from sampleLists
genePanelId	character(1) Identifies the gene panel, as obtained from the genePanels function
molecularProfileId	
	character(1) Indicates a molecular profile ID
pageSize	numeric(1) The number of rows in the table to return
pageNumber	numeric(1) The pagination page number
...	Additional arguments to lower level API functions
by	character(1) Either 'entrezGeneId' or 'hugoGeneSymbol' for row metadata (default: 'entrezGeneId')
genes	character() Either Entrez gene identifiers or Hugo gene symbols. When included, the 'by' argument indicates the type of identifier provided and 'genePanelId' is ignored. Preference is given to Entrez IDs due to faster query responses.

Value

- cBioPortal: An API object of class 'cBioPortal'
- cBioPortalData: A data object of class 'MultiAssayExperiment'

API Metadata

- getStudies: Obtain a table of studies and associated metadata and optionally include a `buildReport` status (default FALSE) for each study. When enabled, the 'api_build' and 'pack_build' columns will be added to the table and will show if `MultiAssayExperiment` objects can be generated for that particular study identifier (`studyId`). The 'api_build' column corresponds to datasets obtained with `cBioPortalData` and the 'pack_build' column corresponds to datsets loaded via `cBioDataPack`. Note that `resourceCounts` is removed from the returned table for simplicity. To get the resource counts manually, use `api$getStudyUsingGET()`.

- searchOps - Search through API operations with a keyword

- sampleLists - obtain all `sampleListIds` for a particular `studyId`

- allSamples - obtain all samples within a particular `studyId`

- genePanels - Show all available gene panels

- geneTable - Get a table of all genes by 'entrezGeneId' and 'hugoGeneSymbol'

- queryGeneTable - Get a table for only the `genes` or `genePanelId` of interest. Gene inputs are identified with the by argument

Patient Data

- clinicalData - Obtain clinical data for a particular study identifier ('studyId')

Molecular Profiles

- molecularProfiles - Produce a molecular profiles dataset for a given study identifier ('studyId')

Molecular Data

- fetchData - A convenience function to download both mutation and molecular data with `molecularProfileId`, `entrezGeneIds`, and `sampleIds`

- mutationData - Produce a dataset of mutation data using `molecularProfileId`, `entrezGeneIds`, and `sampleIds`

- molecularData - Produce a dataset of molecular profile data based on `molecularProfileId`, `entrezGeneIds`, and `sampleIds`

Copy Number Data

- copyNumberData - Produce a dataset of copy number data based on `molecularProfileId`, `sampleListId`, `discreteCopyNumberEventType`, and `projection`

Sample Data

- samplesInSampleLists - get all samples associated with a 'sampleListId'

- getSampleInfo - Obtain sample metadata for a particular `studyId` or `sampleListId`

Gene Panels

- getGenePanels - Obtain the gene panel for a particular 'genePanelId'

- genePanelMolecular - get gene panel data for a particular `molecularProfileId` and either a vector of `sampleListId` or `sampleId`

- getGenePanelMolecular - get gene panel data for multiple `molecularProfileIds` and a vector of `sampleIds`

Genes

- getDataByGenes - Download data for a number of genes within `molecularProfileId` indicators, optionally a `sampleListId` can be provided.

Examples

```
cbio <- cBioPortal()

getStudies(api = cbio)

clinicalData(cbio, "acc_tcga")

molecularProfiles(cbio, "acc_tcga")

fetchData(
    api = cbio, studyId = "acc_tcga",
    molecularProfileIds = c(
        "acc_tcga_mutations", "acc_tcga_gistic", "acc_tcga_rppa"
    ),
    entrezGeneIds = 1:1000,
    sampleIds = c("TCGA-OR-A5J1-01", "TCGA-OR-A5J2-01")
)
mutationData(
    api = cbio,
    molecularProfileIds = "acc_tcga_mutations",
    entrezGeneIds = 1:1000,
    sampleIds = c("TCGA-OR-A5J1-01", "TCGA-OR-A5J2-01")
)

molecularData(
    api = cbio,
    molecularProfileIds = c("acc_tcga_rna_seq_v2_mrna", "acc_tcga_rppa"),
    entrezGeneIds = 1:100,
    sampleIds = c("TCGA-OR-A5J1-01", "TCGA-OR-A5J2-01")
)

## obtain molecularProfileId for discrete copy number alteration data
molecularProfiles(cbio, "acc_tcga") |>
    dplyr::filter(
        molecularAlterationType == "COPY_NUMBER_ALTERATION" &
        datatype == "DISCRETE"
    )
```

```
copyNumberData(
    api = cbio,
    molecularProfileIds = "acc_tcga_gistic",
    entrezGeneIds = 25,
    sampleListId = "acc_tcga_all"
)

searchOps(api = cbio, keyword = "molecular")

samplesInSampleLists(
    api = cbio,
    sampleListIds = c("acc_tcga_rppa", "acc_tcga_cnaseq")
)

sampleLists(api = cbio, studyId = "acc_tcga")

genePanels(cbio)

getGenePanel(cbio, "AmpliSeq")

queryGeneTable(api = cbio, by = "entrezGeneId", genes = 7157)

getDataByGenes(
    api = cbio,
    studyId = "acc_tcga",
    genes = 1,
    by = "entrezGeneId",
    molecularProfileIds = "acc_tcga_rna_seq_v2_mrna",
    sampleListId = "acc_tcga_rna_seq_v2_mrna"
)
```

---

cBioPortal-class   *A class for representing the cBioPortal API protocol*

Description

The cBioPortal class is a representation of the cBioPortal API protocol that directly inherits from the Service class in the AnVIL package. For more information, see the AnVIL package.

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'cBioPortal'
operations(x, ..., .deprecated = FALSE)
```

Arguments

x   A AnVIL instance or API representation as given by the cBioPortal function.

...   additional arguments passed to methods or, for `operations`,`Service`-method, to the internal `get_operation()` function.

.deprecated   optional logical(1) include deprecated operations?

Details

This class takes the static API as provided at <https://www.cbioportal.org/api/v2/api-docs> and creates an R object with the help from underlying infrastructure (i.e., [rapiclient](#) and [AnVIL](#)) to give the user a unified representation of the API specification provided by the cBioPortal group. Users are not expected to interact with this class other than to use it as input to the functionality provided by the rest of the package.

Value

A `cBioPortal` class instance

Functions

- operations(cBioPortal): List all the `operations` available with the cBioPortal API object, e.g., api$operation

See Also

[cBioPortal,](#) [AnVIL](#)

Examples

```
cBioPortal()
```

---

     cBioPortalData   *Download data from the cBioPortal API*

Description

Obtain a `MultiAssayExperiment` object for a particular gene panel, `studyId`, `molecularProfileIds`, and `sampleListIds` combination. Default `molecularProfileIds` and `sampleListIds` are set to NULL for including all data. This option is best for users who wish to obtain a section of the study data that pertains to a specific molecular profile and gene panel combination. For users looking to download the entire study data as provided by the <https://www.cbioportal.org/datasets>, refer to cBioDataPack.

Usage

```
cBioPortalData(
  api,
  studyId = NA_character_,
  genePanelId = NA_character_,
  genes = NA_character_,
  molecularProfileIds = NULL,
  sampleListId = NULL,
  sampleIds = NULL,
  by = c("entrezGeneId", "hugoGeneSymbol"),
  check_build = TRUE,
  ask = interactive()
)
```

Arguments

api	An API object of class `cBioPortal` from the `cBioPortal` function
studyId	character(1) Indicates the "studyId" as taken from `getStudies`
genePanelId	character(1) Identifies the gene panel, as obtained from the `genePanels` function
genes	character() Either Entrez gene identifiers or Hugo gene symbols. When included, the 'by' argument indicates the type of identifier provided and 'genePanelId' is ignored. Preference is given to Entrez IDs due to faster query responses.
molecularProfileIds	
	character() A vector of molecular profile IDs
sampleListId	character(1) A sample list identifier as obtained from `sampleLists()`
sampleIds	character() Sample identifiers
by	character(1) Either 'entrezGeneId' or 'hugoGeneSymbol' for row metadata (default: 'entrezGeneId')
check_build	logical(1L) Whether to check the build status of the `studyId` using an internal dataset. This argument should be set to `FALSE` if using alternative `hostnames`, e.g., 'pedcbioportal.kidsfirstdrc.org'
ask	logical(1) Whether to prompt the the user before downloading and loading study `MultiAssayExperiment` that is not currently building based on previous testing. Set to `interactive()` by default. In a non-interactive session, data download will be attempted; equivalent to ask = FALSE. The argument will also be used when a cache directory needs to be created when using `downloadStudy`.

Details

We are able to succesfully represent 98 percent of the study identifiers as `MultiAssayExperiment` objects as obtained via `cBioPortalData` with the IMPACT341 `genePanelId` as the example gene panel. Datasets that currently fail to import can be seen in the `getStudies(..., buildReport = TRUE)` dataset under the `"api_build"` column. Note that changes to the cBioPortal API may affect this rate at any time. If you encounter any issues, please open a GitHub issue at the https://github.com/waldronlab/cBioPortalData/issues/ page with a fully reproducible example.

Value

A [MultiAssayExperiment](#) object

See Also

[cBioDataPack](#)

Examples

```
cbio <- cBioPortal()

samps <- samplesInSampleLists(cbio, "acc_tcga_rppa")[[1]]

getGenePanelMolecular(
    cbio, molecularProfileIds = c("acc_tcga_rppa", "acc_tcga_linear_CNA"),
    samps
)

acc_tcga <- cBioPortalData(
    cbio, by = "hugoGeneSymbol",
    studyId = "acc_tcga",
    genePanelId = "AmpliSeq",
    molecularProfileIds =
        c("acc_tcga_rppa", "acc_tcga_linear_CNA", "acc_tcga_mutations")
)
```

---

downloadStudy   *Manually download, untar, and load study tarballs*

Description

Note that these functions should be used when a particular study is *not* currently available as a `MultiAssayExperiment` representation. Otherwise, use `cBioDataPack`. Provide a `cancer_study_id` from `getStudies` and retrieve the study tarball from the cBio Genomics Portal. These functions are used by `cBioDataPack` under the hood to download,untar, and load the tarball datasets with caching. As stated in `?cBioDataPack`, not all studies are currently working as `MultiAssayExperiment` objects. As of July 2020, about ~80% of datasets can be successfully imported into the `MultiAssayExperiment` data class. Please open an issue if you would like the team to prioritize a study. You may also check `getStudies(buildReport = TRUE)$pack_build` for the current status.

Usage

```
downloadStudy(
  cancer_study_id,
  use_cache = TRUE,
  force = FALSE,
  url_location = getOption("cBio_URL", .url_location),
```

```
  ask = interactive()
)

untarStudy(cancer_study_file, exdir = tempdir())

loadStudy(
  filepath,
 names.field = c("Hugo_Symbol", "Entrez_Gene_Id", "Gene", "Composite.Element.REF"),
  cleanup = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

cancer_study_id

character(1) The study identifier from cBioPortal as seen in the dataset links at <https://www.cbioportal.org/datasets>.

use_cache   logical(1) (default TRUE) create the default cache location and use it to track downloaded data. If data found in the cache, data will not be re-downloaded. A path can also be provided to data cache location.

force   logical(1) (default FALSE) whether to force re-download data from remote location

url_location   character(1) (default "https://cbioportal-datahub.s3.amazonaws.com") the URL location for downloading packaged data. Can be set using the 'cBio_URL' option (see ?cBioDataPack for more details)

ask   logical(1) Whether to prompt the the user before downloading and loading study MultiAssayExperiment that is not currently building based on previous testing. Set to interactive() by default. In a non-interactive session, data download will be attempted; equivalent to ask = FALSE. The argument will also be used when a cache directory needs to be created when using downloadStudy.

cancer_study_file

character(1) indicates the on-disk location of the downloaded tarball

exdir   character(1) indicates the folder location to *put* the contents of the tarball (default tempdir(); see also ?untar)

filepath   character(1) indicates the folder location where the contents of the tarball are *located* (usually the same as exdir)

names.field   character() Possible column names for the column that will used to label ranges for data such as mutations or copy number (defaults: "Hugo_Symbol", "Entrez_Gene_Id", "Gene", and "Composite.Element.REF"). Values are cycled through and eliminated when no data present, or duplicates are found. Values in the corresponding column must be unique in each row.

cleanup   logical(1) whether to delete the untar-red contents from the exdir folder (default TRUE)

Details

When attempting to load a dataset using loadStudy, note that the cleanup argument is set to TRUE by default. Change the argument to FALSE if you would like to keep the untarred data in the exdir

location. `downloadStudy` and `untarStudy` are not affected by this change. The tarball of the downloaded data is cached via `BiocFileCache` when `use_cache` is `TRUE`.

Value

- downloadStudy - The file location of the data tarball
- untarStudy - The directory location of the contents
- loadStudy - A MultiAssayExperiment-class object

See Also

[cBioDataPack,](#) [MultiAssayExperiment](#)

Examples

```
acc_file <- downloadStudy("acc_tcga")
acc_file

file_dir <- untarStudy(acc_file, tempdir())
file_dir

loadStudy(file_dir)
```

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